

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 11 are amended, and claim 12 is added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 7, states that claims 1-7 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action, on page 2, objects to claim 11 as the term "e.g." is ambiguous and not clear regarding the limitation. Claim 11 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The term "Scotch disc" is asserted not to have been defined. Claim 7 is amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over JP-A-05-146558 (hereinafter "JP '588"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '588 teaches a titanium cutter containing a titanium alloy edge. This titanium alloy edge is applied as a surface layer (noted as "cladding" in block [0019] of the computer-generated English-language translation of the reference), followed by grinding to produce a smooth edge.

JP '588 does not teach, nor would it have been suggested, the use of massive elements over the entire thickness of the scissor blades. The thin surface layer of JP '588 only provides an initial sharp edge incapable of repeated grindings to sharpen the edge. In addition, JP '588 requires thermal aging of the surface to produce the hardened titanium alloy

as noted in blocks [0016] and [0017] of the English-language translation. The invention disclosed in JP '588 is structurally different from the subject matter of the pending claim, and does not recognize any objective benefit related to that among which the subject matter of the pending claims are directed.

For at least the foregoing reason, JP '588 cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to even to have suggested, the combination of features positively recited in independent claim 8. Further, claims 9 and 10, are also not taught, nor would they have been suggested, by JP '588 for at least the respective dependence of these claims on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable features that each of the claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over JP '588 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '588. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the dependence of claim 11 on an allowable base claim, based on the arguments presented above, claim 11 would not have been suggested by JP '588, as well as for the separately patentable feature that this claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '588 RE respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 8-12, in addition to the allowance of claims 1-7, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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